



PATENT
450100-4465.1

IN THE ABSTRACT

Delete the first paragraph in its entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 19 and 22 as follows:

--19. (Once Amended) A memory card for storing data transmitted from an external apparatus, said memory card comprising:

a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external apparatus;

a switch settable to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash memory;

C1 an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to [an] a read status instruction transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus and said control means receiving from said external apparatus data to be written to said flash memory and a write instruction signal only if the state of said switch that is sent to said external apparatus is not said state which inhibits writing.--

--22. (Once Amended) A system comprising a memory card and an external apparatus, wherein data is communicated therebetween,

C2 said memory card comprising:

a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external apparatus;

a switch settable to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash memory;

an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to [an] a read status instruction transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus and said control means responding to a write instruction received from said external apparatus via said interface to write into said flash memory data received from said external apparatus;

and said external apparatus comprising:

a controller for writing data to or erasing data from the flash memory of said memory card, said controller transmitting [an] a read status instruction to said memory card via said interface to determine whether a data writing operation to the flash memory of said memory card is inhibited and said controller transmitting via said interface said write instruction and said data to be written into said flash memory after said external apparatus receives said state of said switch and only if said state is not the state that inhibits writing.--

REMARKS

In light of the above-amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action under reply, the Abstract was objected to as containing more than one paragraph. By this amendment, the first paragraph of the Abstract is deleted, thus leaving only one paragraph. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.